

### REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5 to 11, 13 to 16, 18 to 26 and 30 to 35 are pending in this application of which claims 1, 10, 30 and 33 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 4 to 6, 8, 17, 18, 21 and 23 are allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 1 was amended to include the limitations of claims 3 and 4, claim 10 was amended to include the limitations of claim 12 and 17, claim 30 was added to include the limitations of claims 1 and 6 and claim 33 was added to include the limitations of claims 1, 7 and 8.

Initially, the Examiner objected to the drawings because reference numbers 218 and 226 of FIG. 2 and reference number 340, 342, 346 and 348 of FIGS. 3 to 5 were not included in the description. Applicant has amended the specification to include reference numbers 218 and 226 as amended above. Applicant has removed reference numbers 340, 342, 346 and 348 from FIGS. 3 to 5.

The drawings were also objected to by the Examiner because the terms "c0", "a0-a3", and "t0" were in lower case in FIGS. 2 to 9. Applicant has amended the description to indicate that the terms "c0", "a0-a3", and "t0" are also designated as "C0", "A0-A3", and "T0" respectfully in FIGS. 3 to 5. As shown above, Applicants amended FIG. 2 to change "a0 - a3" to "A0 - A3". The Examiner also indicated that the term "aN" was not in the description.

Applicants respectfully point-out that the term "aN" is on page 10, line 9. Applicant respectfully requests removal of the drawing objections.

Turning to the description, the Examiner objected to reference 224 on page 7, line 8. The term was changed to 226 as the Examiner suggested. The Examiner also objected to reference number "326", "328", and "330" on page 13, line 9 suggesting these terms should be "726", "728", and "730" respectfully. The Examiner objected to the specification, because "referring" should begin a new paragraph and "three steps" should be changes to "four steps". Applicant has amended the description per the Examiner's recommendations. Applicant respectfully requests removal of the specification objections.

Turning to 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections, claims 13 to 16 and 19 were rejected for lacking sufficient antecedent basis. In particular, claim 13 was rejected because the term "the timing characteristics" lacked an antecedent. Claim 10 was amended to provide a proper antecedent. Claims 14 to 16 were rejected because the term "the inputs for specifying timing characteristics" lacked an antecedent. As seen above, claims 14 to 16 were amended to remove the term "inputs" from these claims. Claim 19 was rejected because the term "the inputted timing characteristics" lacked an antecedent. Claim 19 was amended to remove the word "inputted." Applicant respectfully requests removal of the §112 rejections.

Applicant submits that all dependent claims now depend on allowable independent claims.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or

concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

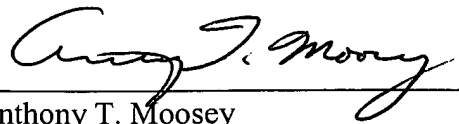
Applicant submits that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

All correspondence should be directed to the address below. Applicant's attorney can be reached by telephone at (617) 422-3532.

Enclosed with this Response is a Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time. No other fee is believed to be due for this Response; however, if any other fees are due, please apply such fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0515 referencing Attorney Docket 1500-US.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6 January 2005

  
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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 2 to 5 and replace the original sheets including FIGS 2 to 5.

In Figure 2, "a0 – a3" was changed to "A0 – A3".

In Figures 3 to 5, references 340, 342, 346 and 348 were removed.

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheet (4 pages)